

# The Transcendentalist Essay

## The Prompts:

Did Chris McCandless live a life that was in keeping with the Transcendentalist principals outlined and described by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau?

Points to address:

1. The core beliefs of Transcendentalism.
  - Potential differences between Emerson and Thoreau.
2. How the lifesyle, philosophy, and "religion" of **Chris McCandless** may or may not have reflected these beliefs.
  - How are they in line with Emerson and Thoreau?
  - How do they differ from Emerson and Thoreau?

HINT: RECALL THE EMPHASIS ON A FULL "RANGE OF EXPERIENCE."

BE SURE TO CITE SOURCES OFTEN AND CORRECTLY! MINIMUM OF 2.

The film and the novel portray Chris in two distinct manners. In what ways were they similar? How were they different?

1. Discuss how the film and the novel illustrated Chris' motives for undertaking his journey.
2. Address the technical aspects of film versus novels. How do these two distinct methods differ in their portrayals of Chris? Does one make him look more or less sane than the other? Do they tell different stories about his motivations?

Create an audio/visual representation of Chris as you understand him and his motivations.

1. Attach a 300 word reflection justifying your compostion. What elements from the text/film caused you to portray Chris in the manner that you chose?

WARNING! THIS REQUIRES SERIOUS THOUGHT AND EFFORT. SEE ME BEFORE BEGINNING WORK ON THIS OPTION.

